

Docket No.: 50435-018 (P2244)

#11
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

LI GONG

Serial No.: 08/988,431

Filed: December 11, 1997

For: CONTROLLING ACCESS TO A RESOURCE



Group Art Unit: 2785

Examiner: S. Baderman

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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

*as per 5/24/00
out for R3*
This is in response to the Examiner's final Office Action of February 16, 2000.

Claims 1-23 remain in the application. Claims 5 and 15 stand allowed. Claims 1-4, 6-7, 11-14, 16-17 and 21-23 stand rejected. Claims 8-10 and 18-20 stand objected to by the Examiner as dependent upon rejected claims with an indication that these would be allowable if the claims were redrawn in independent form. The independent claims are 1, 5, 11, 15 and 21.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the many courtesies of a telephone interview held on May 11, 2000. Pursuant to agreement reached at that interview, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all the rejections and objections.

Summary of rejections

The final Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 6-7 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Fischer, U.S. Patent 5,311,591 (Fischer).

The final Office Action rejects claims 2, 11-13 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Fischer.

The final Office Action rejects claims 4 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Fischer in view of Atsatt et al., U.S. Patent 5,758,153 (Atsatt).

Agreement reached during Interview.

During the interview agreement was reached that Fischer does not teach or suggest "permissions associated with a plurality of routines in a calling hierarchy," as recited by independent claims 1, 11 and 21.

Claim 1 is exemplary and is repeated here for the convenience of the Examiner.

1. A method for providing security, the method comprising the steps of:
detecting when a request for an action is made by a principal; and
in response to detecting the request, determining whether said action is authorized based on permissions associated with a plurality of routines in a calling hierarchy associated with said principal.

The limitation expressed as "permissions associated with a plurality of routines in a calling hierarchy," is not taught at least because the "request" made by the program, disclosed by Fischer, maps to the "request" of Applicant's claims, and therefore can not also map to another element of Applicant's claims. That is, the "request" of Fischer does not properly map to "a routine in a calling hierarchy" as argued in the final Office Action (final Office Action, page 4). Furthermore, since the claims actually recite "a plurality of routines" (emphasis provided), the single "request" of Fischer would not properly be mapped to the "plurality of routines" recited in the claims, in any case.

Atsatt does not cure the deficiencies of Fischer, because Atsatt also does not teach or suggest permissions associated with a plurality of routines in a calling hierarchy.

The passages of Fischer and Atsatt cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest either a plurality of routines in a calling hierarchy or determining whether an action is authorized based on permissions associated with same. Because at least one significant limitation of each of the independent claims 1, 11 and 21 is not taught or suggested by Fischer or Atsatt, a rejection under either 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is improper. For at least the same reasons, the rejection is improper for claims 2-4 and 6-10 which depend directly or indirectly on claim 1. For at least the same reasons, the rejection is also improper for claims 12-14 and 16-20 which depend directly or indirectly on claim 11. Again, for at least the same reasons, the rejection is improper for claims 22-23 which depend directly on claim 21. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1-4, 6-7, 11-14, 16-17 and 21-23.

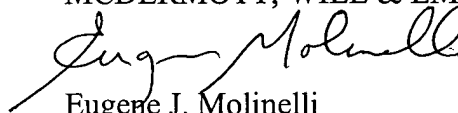
Because claim 7 is allowable for the reasons given above, claims 8-10 do not depend on a rejected base claim. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the objections to claims 8-10. Similarly, because claim 17 is allowable for the reasons given above, claims 18-20 do not depend on a rejected base claim. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the objections to claims 18-20.

For the reasons given, Applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance and the Applicant requests that the Examiner give the application favorable consideration and permit it to issue as a patent.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eugene J. Molinelli".

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